

Testimony of Dr. Tom Coughlan, Associate Dean Mercy College School of Business
concerning funding for Regional Action Councils in

H.B. No. 6824 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING
JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER
PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE.

Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services - March 6, 2015

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Representative Dillon and members of the Appropriations subcommittee, my name is Tom Coughlan. I am offering testimony in strong opposition to the proposed cuts to the regional action councils.

As a dean in a business school I have a keen understand of the importance of effective resource allocation. So I was shocked when I heard that the governor's budget proposed such dramatic cuts to the funding of Communities 4 Action (formerly Lower Fairfield County Regional Action Council).

In the grand scheme of things the funding for groups like this is a relatively small expense, but the social and economic returns are extremely high. Through Communities 4 Actions efforts, and groups like them, we are protecting our future through education and support services.

Even if only a small percentage of their efforts are successful they are turning around lives. Form a social point of view one life saved is priceless, but from and economic perspective the annual funding for this group is more then made up for by the net revenue to the state by turning individuals from a net lifetime net tax loss to a net lifetime tax gain. Therefore, if we look at this from a time value of money perspective, we are foolishly mortgaging the our long term revenues for an extremely marginal short term gain.

I strongly recommend that the committee reinstate the funding for this group.

Thank you.

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